

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 NEAE-00 SSC-01 IO-13

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/087 W

-----015871 261843Z /46

P R 261400Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8898

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PINR, IS

SUBJECT: NEW CABINET APPOINTMENTS: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1. ON OCTOBER 24, THE KNESSET APPROVED THE ADDITION OF FOUR DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE MEMBERS TO THE CABINET. THE FOLLOWING IS BASIC BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON THE NEW APPOINTMENTS:

2. YIGAEI YADIN - DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. YADIN WAS BORN IN JERUSALEM IN 1915 AND AS A YOUTH SERVED IN THE HAGANNAH AND ORDE WINGATE'S NIGHT SQUADS (1938), RISING TO CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE IDF FROM 1949-52. KNOWN AS A PROTEGE OF BEN GURION, YADIN REPRESENTED ISRAEL AT THE RHODES ARMISTICE TALKS AND WAS RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN BEN GURION'S CHOICE AS HIS SUCCESSOR, ALTHOUGH THEY LATER CLASHED AND YADIN RESIGNED FROM THE IDF. DEVOTING HIMSELF TO ARCHEOLOGY RATHER THAN PUBLIC AFFAIRS OUT OF RESPECT TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WISHES OF HIS WIFE (WHO DIED SEVERAL YEARS AGO), YADIN ACQUIRED FAME FOR HIS RESEARCH ON THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS AND HIS EXCAVATION OF MASSADA. PRIOR TO FOUNDING THE DMC, HIS MOST RECENT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WAS AS A MEMBER OF THE AGRANAT COMMISSION WHICH INVESTIGATED ISRAEL'S LACK OF READINESS FOR THE YOM KIPPUR WAR IN 1973. THE FORMATION OF THE DMC MARKED THE BEGINNING OF HIS POLITICAL CAREER

AS SUCH BUT HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN THE BACKGROUND AND LOOKED UPON BY VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES (LABOR, LIBERAL) AS A PTOENTIAL LEADER AND EVEN PRIME MINISTER. FYI WE ARE WORKING ON A CABLE WHICH WILL ATTEMPT TO FORECAST YADIN'S ROLE AND IMPACT ON THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT.

3. MEIR AMIT - MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION. AMIT, WHO HOLDS A MASTER'S DEGREE IN BUSINESS FROM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, WAS BORN IN TIBERIAS IN 1921. HE HAD A DISTINGUISHED MILITARY CAREER, RISING TO THE RANK OF MAJOR GENERAL AND SERVING AS CHIEF OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE (1961-63) AND AS HEAD OF MOSSAD FROM 1963-68. HE THEN SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF KOOR INDUSTRIES, THE INDUSTRIAL CONGLOMERATE OF THE HISTADRUT, UNTIL HE RESIGNED LAST YEAR TO JOIN THE DMC IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE LABOR PARTY AND WOULD HAVE BEEN IN LINE FOR A MINISTERIAL POST IN THE LABOR GOVERNMENT. AMIT, WHO HAS HAD LITTLE POLITICAL EXPERIENCE, IS CONSIDERED A PRAGMATIC MAN, DISPOSED TOWARD THE CENTER OR MODERATE POSITIONS.

4. SHMUEL TAMIR- MINISTER OF JUSTICE. BORN IN JERUSALEM IN 1923, TAMIR JOINED THE BETAR YOUTH MOVEMENT AND LATER SERVED IN THE IRGUN (IZL) BEFORE CAPTURE AND IMPRISONMENT BY THE BRITISH IN PALESTINE AND KENYA. UPON HIS RETURN TO PALESTINE, TAMIR TOOK UP THE PRACTICE OF LAW AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BECAME ACTIVE IN POLITICS. HE IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED AS ONE OF ISRAEL'S BEST TRIAL LAWYERS (HE DEFENDED PAGLIN IN HIS ARMS SMUGGLING CASE SEVERAL YEARS AGO). IN 1967, TAMIR, AFTER A STORMY CAREER IN HERUT, QUIT THE PARTY TO FORM HIS INDEPENDENT FREE CENTER PARTY. THE FREE CENTER THEN JOINED OTHER RIGHT-WING PARTIES IN 1973 TO FORM THE LIKUD. LAST YEAR THE FREE CENTER UNDER TAMIR SPLIT FROM THE LIKUD AND A FEW MONTHS LATER DISSOLVED AS A SEPARATE PARTY WHEN IT BECAME PART OF THE DMC. TAMIR HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE KNESSET SINCE 1966 AND IS KNOWN AS ONE OF ITS MOST ELOQUENT SPEAKERS BUT ALSO ONE OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL MAVERICKS IN ISRAELI POLITICS. MANY YEARS AGO, HE WAS BEGIN'S RIGHT-HAND MAN, BUT SINCE THAT TIME HE HAS FALLEN WOUT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ON VARIOUS ISSUES AND HAS CHANGED IN POLITICAL AFFILIATION SEVERAL TIMES. HE IS A CONSUMMATE POLITICIAN, WHOSE POSITION WAS ENHANCED BY HIS INSTRUMENTAL ROLE IN CONDUCTING COALITION TALKS DURING YADIN'S ABSENCE IN THE U.S. TAMIR HAS BEEN AN OUT-SPOKEN CRITIC OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, RECENTLY LASHING OUT AT ARIEL SHARON AND THE PRESENT POLICY ON WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS, WHICH HE OPPOSES.

5. DR. ISRAEL KATZ-MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL BETTERMENT. BORN IN VIENNA IN 1927, KATZ CAME TO PALESTINE WITH YOUTH ALIYA AT THE AGE OF 10. HE STUDIED AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY (CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS) AND WORKED IN THE UNDERPRIVILEGED SECTIONS OF JERUSALEM BEFORE BEING SENT TO STUDY SOCIAL WORK AT COLUMBIA. IN THE 1950S, DR. KATZ DIRECTED AN INSTITUTE FOR DISTURBED CHILDREN AT KIRIAT YA'ARIM. HE HAS SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INSURANCE INSTITUTE AND OF THE BROOKDALE INSTITUTE OF GERONTOLOGY. THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER, KATZ HAS TAKEN AN INTEREST IN THE UNDERPRIVILEGED CLASSES, AND WAS AUTHOR OF A FAMOUS PRIME MINISTER'S REPORT ON DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN IN 1973 WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE THE BASIS OF WORK HE WILL DO IN THIS FIELD AS MINISTER.

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6. MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT THE CALIBER OF THE NEW MINISTERS IS HIGH; THEY SHOULD PROVE TO BE AN ASSET TO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. WHETHER THEY WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO EXERT A MODERATING INFLUENCE WITHIN THE CABINET REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT AS HEADS OF MINISTRIES AND AS MINISTERS, THEY ENHANCE THE STATURE OF THE CABINET.

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